

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
June 2021

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Worship Schedule:
Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)
Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People
Pastor.....Brad Ross
Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac
Organist.....Edith Schatt
Council President.....Dale Kirk
Council Vice-President...Bonnie Piskac
Council Secretary.....Heidi Bailey
Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Siblings in Christ of Triune,

On June 24, the wider church celebrates John the Baptist. It's not that historical scholars figured out that the camel-hair-wearing and locust-eating...rather interesting character, to say the least, was born on June 24. Instead, John the Baptist's feast day is strategically placed six months before another big birthday celebration of sorts (yes, a six-month reminder to get all your Christmas shopping in order). Some of us may think John the Baptist gets more than enough attention for those few weeks of Advent with his rather abrasive wrath-fearing personality and all. We might even reach the conclusion that he would serve as a perfect talking head on whatever current "news" show with his seemingly in-your-face relentless attitude, almost making us wonder if he would ever dare consider other ideas on how to do ministry for the spiritual welfare of those "brood of vipers." And yet, Jesus claimed him as the greatest (Matthew 11:11, Luke 7:28).(?)

We have a relatively decent amount of Scripture material to work with about John the Baptist in comparison to many other important faith figures of the time, who receive little to no ink whatsoever. However, we don't know much about his ministry beyond the fire-and-brimstone-esque preaching. Who knows what he was like in the overlooked one-on-one side conversations? Perhaps, he had a softer side the Scripture-shapers weren't so interested in passing along for the generations to come. Regardless, his prophecy of "every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Matthew 3:10 NRSV), and the like, continue to grab our attention every December, making us spiritually squirm in the process, and deep-down thank God that J-Bap stays in the colder days of the year.



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Triune Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Over the years, I have heard about the preachers who delivered their fair share of John the Baptist style sermons, making those in the pews wonder if they dare not do what he (pretty much all *he*'s, then, of course) in the pulpit said, "thrown into the fire" they would go. And yet, as much as I recognize I do not have it within my personal/spiritual framework to go off with "brood of vipers," or other ear-catching wording, I also want to be careful to not rail against John the Baptist too much, because I think pulling a complete 180° turn from the prophet's style is not helpful, either.

Granted, I'm sure we have learned getting in people's faces and unleashing guilt and shame, including fear against an almighty and all-powerful and vengeful God, is not the way to go about doing ministry. However, apathy is also not the way. We should have passion about God, our church family, the wider body of Christ, the Creation, all of God's children; that we may do our part in bringing a holy dose of heaven to earth's floor. John the Baptist may be portrayed as somewhat arrogant in the Scriptures, but he also had this most amazing humility as he was called to prepare the way for the Messiah, the One who was about to bring heaven's arsenal of love and joy and peace for the whole world to enjoy. That's something/someOne to get significantly passionate about, after all.

Not all of us have the personality to pull off such fiery prophetic acclamations, but I like to think the Holy Spirit constantly churns within us (through all years of our life), shaping us to be passionate about something related to the care of others. We all have different ways of exuding that passion. We all have our unique interests and ways of serving. Regardless, hopefully, we can all find our needed form of being like John the Baptist, as his own father prophesied about him: "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:79). So, as the church celebrates John the Baptist several months before he makes us spiritually squirm, yet again, may we be thankful for his relentless passion for Christ, and may we never cease from joining in. Amen (so let it be)!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

Image (above): *ThePreachersWord*





We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Cathy Gallagher
Lenny George
Richard Jakubcin
Harriet Joyce
Donna Matter
Brian Roderick

Gloria Roderick
George Tomaselli
Mardell Weiss
Clara Wilcox
Dave Wilcox

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.



9 Jan Halishak

26 Evan Schwab



26 Alan & Elaine Siggelkow



Bible study
continues Mondays at 1pm.
JOIN US ANY TIME!



Summer Worship

In a fit of honesty,
summer unsettles me,
its worship a liminal moment,
between the wind and fire of yesterday
and the seeming importance of all those tomorrows yet to come,
the calendar looking back daring us
to stake a claim otherwise.

Perhaps I am the exception, but
summer worship strikes me hard
like Lent,

I take slow, deep breaths;
everything being green with
a lot of time for thinking
about the enormity of God,
the demands of the baptized life,
the responsibilities of being ambassadors
for a gospel thus entrusted to beggars and fools,
with all we must unlearn to embrace our titles
in their fullness.

In their honesty.
The humility of believing who we really are.

In the summer,
shortfalls often pile up like
mud-caked shoes at the door,
our voices quieter,
resounding echoes filling empty pews.

We stare perplexed,
we stare through stained glass askew
at gardens rich in blooming passion vine
and butterflies,
gardens white like snow with countless milkweed silk
kissed by the wind, aloft,
longing to teach us the deep mysteries of God
that we claim to know, have always known,
rote memory, but do not.
Not in truth, not in faith.

Summer untethers some part of the mind,
introspection the rule of the day,
and all laid bare before us,
we turn, and turn,
a confession wrapped within
a lazy morning's coffee
and warm afternoon thunder showers,
and the lightning bugs of early evening that bring smiles to the dusk.
We turn.

We bear in the late sunset
the curse and blessing of unstructured time,
until finally we admit the things we claim to know, unknown,
and the things we trust, uncertain.

This is no liturgical doubt, but a longing,
a summer sighing,
a turning from and turning to.

In the slower drumbeat of warmer days,
we may find the cross we left behind, before us, beckoning still.

This was originally published July 9, 2013 via LivingLutheran.org. Please visit their website for more resources for the journey of faith.

- *The Rev. Dr. Keith Spencer (Trinity Lutheran Church, Pembroke Pines, FL)*

For those who will be traveling this summer:



June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AA @ 7 pm	2	3 AA @ 8 pm	4	5 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE
6 WORSHIP @11 AM	7 Bible Study @ 1 pm Council Meeting @ 7pm	8 AA @ 7 pm	9	10 AA @ 8 pm	11	12 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE
13 WORSHIP @11 AM	14 Bible Study @ 1 pm	15 AA @ 7 pm	16	17 AA @ 8 pm	18	19 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE
20 WORSHIP @11 AM Father's Day	21 Bible Study @ 1 pm	22 AA @ 7 pm	23	24 AA @ 8 pm	25	26 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD
27 WORSHIP @11 AM	28 Bible Study @ 1 pm	29 AA @ 7 pm	30			



If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.